

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10383 011522Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

----- 038986

R 011235Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 343

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10383

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: SATURDAY REVIEW INTERVIEW OF MRS GANDHI

1. THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS INVITED TO AN INTERVIEW OF MRS GANDHI IN THE SATURDAY REVIEW. WE ASSUME IT IS THE LATEST ISSUE, ALTHOUGH THE DATE IS NOT GIVEN IN THE WIRE SERVICE DESPATCHES WHICH RECOUNT HER ANSWERS TO THE SATURDAY REVIEW'S WRITTEN QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL WIRE SERVICE RUN CARRYING THE INTERVIEW, SUBSCRIBERS WERE DIRECTED TO WITHHOLD THE FOLLOWING PROTION FROM PUBLICATION:

"ASKED BY MR COUSINS WHAT SHE WOULD DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ADVERSE SUPREME COURT RULING IN HER APPEAL AGAINST THE ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT, MRS GANDHI REPLIED: 'IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT TO SPECULATE ON WHAT THE COURT WILL SAY. I DO NOT WISH TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY CASE EXCEPT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT AT THE TIME OF 1971 ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH WAS AN OPPOSITION ONE AND THE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE POLICE (WHO SUPERVISED THE BUKLDING OF THE ROSZUM) WAS NOT ONLY FROM RAE BARELI BUT WAS THE ELECTION AGENT OF MR RAJ NARAIN, MY OPPONENT.'"

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"QUESTION: DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT JAYAPRAKASH

NARAYAN AND OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES WHO HAVE BEEN INTERNED WILL BE RELEASED SOON?

"MRS GANDHI: AS SOON AS WE ARE ASSURED THAT THEY WILL NOT ENDANGER THE SITUATION AND THAT THEY WILL RENOUNCE THE THREAT OF EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL DIRECT ACTION.

"I HOPE THAT NORMALCY WILL RETURN NOT ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT THE COUNTRY WILL BE REASONABLY FREE OF INCIDENTS BUT IN THE SENSE THAT THERE WILL BE LESS ANGER AND GREATER SELF-CONTROL." THE INTERVIEW IS EXTENSIVELY QUOTED IN THE AUGUST 1 PRESS.

2. IN HER REPLY, MRS GANDHI ARGUES ON BEHALF OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES UNDER THE EMERGENCY AND INSISTS THAT WHAT SHE HAS DONE IS NOT CONTRARY TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. SHE DOES NOT THINK THE "PRESENT SITUATION WILL BE UNDULY PROLONGED." MRS GANDHI JUSTIFIES RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS AS BEING NECESSARY FOR THE PREVENTION OF INCITEMENT. AS FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SHE RHETORICALLY ASKS, "CAN THEY CLAIM INTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN INDIA AND EXEMPTIONS FROM LAWS THAT APPLY TO OUR OWN CITIZENS?" SHE SAID THAT THE ACCUSATION THAT SHE WAS ANTI-AMERICAN WAS FAR FROM THE TRUTH. "I ADMIRE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE SEEK FRIENDSHIP FROM ALL, BUT WE ARE NOT SUBSERVIENT TO ANY COUNTRY. ISN'T IT ODD THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO SEEM SO CONCERNED ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN INDIA HAVE BEEN APPLAUDING CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS?"
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE10383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750266-0742
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750890/aaaadbve.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SATURDAY REVIEW INTERVIEW OF MRS GANDHI
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, US, SATURDAY REVIEW, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006